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16. <sup>7</sup> (New) An improved oligomerization process as recited in claim 15<sup>6</sup> wherein said alpha olefin of said oligomerization feed mixture is selected from monounsaturated alpha olefins having from 3 to 22 carbon atoms.

17. <sup>8</sup> (New) An improved oligomerization process as recited in claim 16<sup>7</sup> wherein said alpha olefin of said oligomerization feed mixture contains from 3 to 14 carbon atoms.

18. <sup>9</sup> (New) An improved oligomerization process as recited in claim 17<sup>8</sup> wherein said alpha olefin is selected from the group consisting of propene, 1-butene, 1-pentene, 1-hexene, 1-heptene, 1-octene, 1-decene, 1-dodecene, and 1-tetradecene.

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REMARKS

Previously filed claims 1-9 are cancelled from the specification and new claims 10-18 are added pursuant to this Amendment which accompanies the Request for Continued Examination of the application. It is respectfully submitted that the newly presented claims are patentably distinguishable over the art previously cited by the Examiner. In particular, Applicants point to the use of the transitional phrase, "consisting essentially of", used in defining the catalyst complex and in defining the carboxylic acid modifier. The use of this terminology has the effect of excluding material amounts of nitrogen compounds from the claimed process. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the process as it is now claimed is patentably distinguishable over the art relied upon by the Examiner in the prior rejection.

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In view of the above comments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 10-18 are patentably distinguishable over the art cited by the Examiner. Early allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 13, 2002  
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**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 703-746-5613 to the attention of Examiner Tam Nguyen:

August 13, 2002  
(Date)  
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